HUMAN ELEMENT BIG IN RAILROAD SAFETY

Elaborate Rules Devised, But One Careless Man May Set Them at Naught.

Problems involved in maintaining safety on railroads were explained by Thomas H. Carrow, safety inspector, insurance department, Pennsylvania Railroad Company, to the Interstate Association, composed of employes of the interstate commerce commission, at a meeting here Friday night.

Safety in railway transportation, he said, consists primarily in the efficient management and co-ordination of three separate and distinct departments. The first is the maintenance of way department, which is responsible for the construction and maintenance of roadway and appurtenances. The second is the motive power department, which provides the rolling stock, and the third is the transportation department, which arranges for and supervises the movement of trains.

Train Rules Elaborate.

"Trains are operated," Mr. Carrow said, "by an elaborate set of rules. These rules have grown out of the experience of many practical minds and the careful observance of the rules really constitutes the great bulwark of safe transportation. For this reason employes are selected with a view to special fitness and trained to understand not only the questions that arise normally in the conduct of business, but they also must be qualified to meet emergencies as they arise.

"On the Pennsylvania railroad there are more than 25,000 train service employes, and the possible danger lurking in the failure of any one of these men to perform his duty properly suggests for consideration the greatest of all problems the railroad official is called upon to solve, and that is the selecting, the training and the supervising of employes engaged in all departments, and particularly those who have to do with the movement of trains; for the commission has pointed out that the vast majority of all train accidents are attributable to the failure of the human element.

No Time for Pondering.

"If the machinist makes a mistake with his tool he simply destroys the material on which he is working; if the sculptor makes an unfortunate stroke with his chisel he only spoils the statue; if the statistician makes an error in his figures he has time to correct the error; but when a railroad man disregards a signal, when he misreads a train order or when he throws a switch wrong, it is often too late to correct his mistake. The damage has been done, and all too frequently it is irreparable, and it is not with pride, but with a deep sense of gratitude, that we point to a record of three years' immunity from fatal injury to passengers in train accidents on the Pennsylvania railroad."

SUICIDES ARE INCREASING AMONG JAPAN'S PEOPLE

Unconsummated Love, Debt and Failure of Educated Men to Earn Living Are Blamed.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

TOKIO, January 25.—Unconsummated love, debt and the failure of men of education to earn a sufficient living are given by a writer in the well known Chuo Koron review as the three chief causes of suicide in Japan, the increase of which in recent years has caused medical experts considerable anxiety. The writer expressed the opinion that the number of suicides is larger than appears in the press and is struck by the fact that the number of cases of self-destruction seems to have increased with the development of western civilization.

He says: "Late spring and early summer seem to furnish the greater number of victims, so that heat has evidently an irritating effect on the mind, producing the melancholy that leads to suicide. In spite of the fact that the habit is regarded as evil, many look to it as the only relief from misery. Though suicide is condemned by both Christianity and Mohammedanism many Japanese regard it as sometimes a means toward a higher end. The evil is due to a more insistent spirit of pessimism following the wave of materialism in evidence after the wars with Russia and China. Lack of imagination and deep thinking which fail to find solace in material forces and knows no other source of relief naturally leaves the victim in fatal despair. The writer is pessimistic as to the future, for he finds that for not many years has Japanese society been in such a state of stagnancy and gloom.

Statistics show that the greater number of suicides are among the young and that the favored methods of seeking death are by throwing themselves in front of railroad trains and by casting themselves over waterfalls. So many people jumped to death over the Kegon waterfall precipice at Chuzenji in late years that the authorities built a high wall to deter would-be suicides. The waterfall is one of the most beautiful in Japan. It carries off the overflow from the lake which itself is noted as the summer home of the foreign diplomats accredited to Tokio.

MAINTAIN ELABORATE CLUB.

Russian Officers Finely Housed in Building in Petrograd.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

PETROGRAD, February 1.—The Officers' Club of Petrograd is probably the most elaborately housed organization of its kind in the world. It occupies a large palace in one of the principal streets of the city, built around three sides of a spacious quadrangle. The enormous building is maintained largely at the expense of the state, and during the period of the war it is open, practically without charge, to Russian officers quartered elsewhere than in Petrograd, and to their wives and families.

The huge reception rooms are decorated with oil paintings and fine engravings presented by various regiments, and many of them by the emperor himself. On the floors above are 150 bedrooms, ranging in price from 20 cents to $2.50 a day. For the lowest price one is provided with a capital bedroom, electric light and hot and cold water. For the maximum figure an officer or his family can have a sittingroom, double bedroom and bathroom.

A four course table d'hote costs 40 cents, which is remarkably cheap considering the high prices which at present rule in Petrograd. The club has been so popular that there are at least twelve applicants for each vacant apartment.

The club also operates the immense "army and navy stores," where Russian officers and men can buy all necessaries and luxuries at practically cost price.

Nebraska has 387,522 school children and 12,335 school teachers.

FRANCE USES MOVIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Also Re-Educates Disabled Soldiers and Finds Them Valuable in Impressing Points Sought.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

PARIS, February 11.—The motion picture as a factor in public education has been the subject of inquiry by a parliamentary commission, which has just published a report recommending the official adoption of picture instruction by all government schools and colleges.

Military hospitals have been using moving films for the physical re-education of disabled war victims, and one primary school in Paris has introduced cinematograph projections in its curriculum. In both cases the results have been most encouraging.

The report explains the application of film education in its general outlines. In primary schools, for example, spelling, writing, arithmatic, geography, and especially history, can be illustrated on the screen with greater vividness than by the teacher, whereas in more advanced schools the study of foreign languages can be profitably supplemented by views of the countries where these tongues are spoken, their customs and institutions. In high schools the cinematograph would play an even more important role, especially in the study of science. Chemistry, botany, biology, mechanics, etc., particularly in their comparative aspects, lend themselves more than any other study to film-illustration, particularly as it is possible to stop the film at any moment so as to emphasize or reiterate some point. Public lectures and patriotic instruction are also, as has been repeatedly proved, greatly aided by the cinematograph. The commission is of opinion that the ministry of public instruction should either create a special source of production for these films, or, with the help of editors of cinematograph films, establish a repertory of already existing films, which could be utilized for educational purposes and give orders for creating new ones to suit the needs of schools and colleges. The widespread continuous demand for such films would amply repay the cost of production.

YUAN SHI-KAI IS FOND OF THE "MOVIE" SHOWS

China's Ruler, With Members of His Family, Frequently Witnesses Film Exhibitions.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

PEKING, January 31.—Yuan Shi-kai is very fond of moving pictures, and he and all the members of his family attend a performance in the theater in the Forbidden City every week, when the films brought to the leading picture theater in Peking are shown for the entertainment of the Yuan household.

Recently Yuan Shi-kai, together with thousands of other interested cinema patrons in Peking, has suffered a great disappointment. A mystery film to run for twelve weeks completed six installments of the story, but the seventh installment got lost somewhere in Sweden on its way over from London, and Peking is anxiously awaiting the unraveling of the plot. The young heroine of the film drama was seized by bandits when Peking last saw her, and residents of both the Forbidden City and the outer city are anxious to know more of her fate.

Few Diversions in Forbidden City.

Life in the Forbidden City affords few diversions, especially since there have been some evidences of disloyalty among trusted employes. Consequently, Yuan Shi-kai and his family enjoy little liberty.

The president takes his exercise chiefly in drilling a section of the modern army in the Forbidden City, while several of his sons play foot ball and skate on the frozen lakes within the great walls inclosing the palace grounds.

Skating is also affording recreation for legation staffs and legation guards in Peking, which has been more or less isolated as a result of the bitter feeling growing out of the European war. Practically all of the legations have their own temporary skating rinks built in their compounds. These rinks are covered with bamboo matting to protect the ice from the sun and dust.

The American legation rink is practically the only rink in Peking where visitors of all European powers are entertained. However, the legation officers have set apart certain days for the entertainment of visitors belonging to the entente powers, and different days for German and Austrian guests.

ATTACKS CLASS LINES IN ENGLISH SCHOOLS

Alexander Devine Makes Plea for Abolition of Aristocratic Distinctions of "Public School" Men.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

LONDON, February 11.—While other educational reformers are striving to displace Latin, Greek and the old non-investigating methods of study with science and modern languages, Alexander Devine, headmaster of Clayesmore School, Winchester, has come out with an attack on class distinction in school life.

The English elementary and preparatory boarding schools, known here as public schools, are the main prop of the aristocratic system. It is necessary that the students of these institutions belong to the gentry, while the free schools are left for the sons of tradesmen and laborers. But it is the public schools that give the Englishmen of the better class the manner that is his special distinction. To come from a public school almost settles the young Englishman's status in society. Positions in official life and the dignified branches of commercial life above the menial are largely limited to public school men. In the present war a regiment of public school men was organized, so as to gather together those of a good class socially. The name counts much as membership in a college fraternity does in the United States, with the exception that it carries weight among all classes of people in England.

Prof. Devine said he viewed with deep concern the widening of the gulf between class and class, which was becoming peculiar to England above all the nations of the world, and showed itself strongest in the matter of education.

"The upper or so-called governing classes," he declared, "hold strongly to their own institution of preparatory and public school, and aristocracy shields itself under an attitude of superiority of blood, breeding and tradition.

"Now men and women of all classes are working together with one sympathy and one aim—the dead lying side by side, cook's son and duke's son treading the Valley of the Shadow together. Never again will men and women be quite as they have been in the past. We shall be a lost nation indeed if after this we are not a very different nation."

One man-eating leopard of India was known to have killed more than twenty men before it was dispatched.

PHILIPPINE PROBLEMS

IV.—Taming the Wild Men.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

Advocates of Philippine independence hold that the non-Christian tribes are no more of a problem than are the Indians in the United States. Their opponents say that the parallel would be more accurate if there were fourteen million Indians in this country, if they had recently come off the warpath and were anxious to go back to it. The truth lies somewhere between these extremes of opinion, but at best the non-Christian tribes are a problem, and at worst they can be a serious menace.

Nobody knows exactly how many of the non-Christian people there are. It is certain that there are enough of them to form an important element in the total population. Some Filipinos have set their number as low as half a million. Other estimates, including that of the census, put them nearer the three-quarter million mark. Dean C. Worcester, for thirteen years a member of the Philippine commission and secretary of the interior for the islands, reckons them in great detail, island by island, to a total well over a million. Mr. Worcester is probably better acquainted with this particular question than any other American.

The total population of the archipelago is about eight millions. Thus seven million Filipinos will have from half a million to a million non-Christians whose territory embraces about half the land area of the islands to police, educate, sanitate, administer and govern.

* * *

Savage, But Not Wild.

The question is somewhat simplified by the fact that these wild tribes are in some ways not exactly wild. They are savage and in the very recent past waged savage warfare, but they are intelligent and quick to progress. There is a tribe in the interior of Mindanao that lived in the treetops five years ago. Today that tribe lives in a village, uses late-model disc plows and trims the public plaza with a lawn mower.

Such tribes have been won to law and order by the American civil and military officers who had charge of them. The task called for utter fearlessness, infinite patience and a man who could set for each crime an adequate punishment and see that it was carried out. These American officers risked their lives a dozen times a day. They traveled unarmed through remote and hostile regions where every man boasted a lance and a strong desire to increase his head score. They decorated their quarters with the spears thrown at them. They arbitrated feuds between villages when only the presence of the other tribe prevented each warring party from gathering in the arbiter.

The American in charge of some hidden inland district represented the whole machinery of administration in his one quinine-filled person. He was the legislative, the judicial and the executive branches of government combined. He was the health department and the bureau of public works. Between tribes he was a Hague tribunal, and between individuals a court of last appeal. At the head of a few red-capped native constables he ranged through the jungle in the name of the new law.

The hill people regarded war as a part of life, yet in some ways they proved a likable race to deal with. They recognized the justice of punishment, and bore no malice after it was over. On their side they expected that punishment should wipe the slate clean, that the offender who had paid his penalty should get back his old status in every way. They were not a race to appreciate mildness, but they admired courage in an enemy with ready generosity. By courage the Americans ruled them, occasionally falling back on the national resource of bluff.

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A Noteworthy Incident.

A good example of what the pioneers of our administration had to deal with, and the way they dealt with it, is furnished by an incident that happened on one of the smaller islands. A young governor set out with two native constables to compel a band of outlaws to disarm. They found the whole tribe in arms, and showing an ugly mood. It was apparent that they were working themselves up to the point of attack, and as the tribe numbered over a hundred the governor and his two followers were in a ticklish situation. So the American forced the issue. Seizing on a pretext for a quarrel with the chief he ordered his constables to hold the man while he gave him a cut with a stick. The natives were aghast at such temerity; it convinced them that the governor had a hidden force in reserve. They meekly gave up their weapons.

Once the new government was established, friendly relations between the officers of administration and their districts grew rapidly. The wild tribes are quick to appreciate courage and a square deal. They obeyed the law, and regarded the local lawmaker as a sort of demi-god; for the ruling of such people is largely a personal matter; they cannot grasp principles of government. Give them a man who deals fairly with them, punishes them when necessary, without malice, but without favor, respects their customs as far as possible, and works for the general good, and they will admire that man and the government he stands for.

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Head Hunting Stamped Out.

All these phases of the American regime must be spoken of in the past tense, but not because they are ancient history. They happened in the twentieth century; some of them happened five and six years ago. Today head hunting practically has been stamped out; the wild tribes are beginning to go to school; they are cheerfully working ten days a year on the roads, and are proud of the wonderful system of trails they have built. Century-old feuds between hostile tribes have been adjusted, men have come down from the tree tops to live in model villages, agriculture has been stimulated among the hill people, the gulleless savage is getting a fair price for his produce and buying what he needs reasonably at government stores—in fact, everything goes as smoothly as could be asked. Yet, in considering what problem the non-Christian tribes present for the future it is well to remember their record in the past and the record of the men who reclaimed them, as well as the recent date of that reclamation.

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Three Distinct Classes.

The non-Christians are divided into three very distinct classes. First is the Negrito, the "little black man" of the Spaniards, who has the proudest lineage of all, for he is all that remains of the aboriginal race of the islands. The Negrito is one of the lowest types of humanity, ranked by ethnologists with the Australian bushman. He is a little, black, woolly-headed individual who has no capacity for receiving civilization. There are only about 25,000 of him in the islands, so he does not present a problem, except as he bears on the much-discussed question of the existence of slavery in the archipelago.

The bulk of the non-Christian peoples are of Malay descent. Some of them have a slight admixture of Negrito blood. The hill tribes, or pagans, are derived from Malays who invaded the islands in ancient times. Many distinct tribes are recognized among them, half a dozen on the main island of Luzon alone. The pagans of Luzon inhabit the mountain province for the most part, in the northern end of the island, where they formerly held supreme sway. Here dwell the Ifugaos, the Kalingas, the Igorots, the Apayaos and others of the head-hunting peoples. It is hardly fair to speak of such people as the Ifugaos, with their wonderfully constructed rice terraces clinging to the sides of almost perpendicular mountains, as savages, but many of their old customs were savage to the last degree.

Today it is possible for men of one of these tribes to go about safely in the territory of another tribe for the first time in centuries. Their own raids on their civilized neighbors have ceased altogether. Educational work is going forward among them, they furnish some of the best recruits for the constabulary, and their progress in all lines is highly satisfactory. Baguio, the great summer resort of the islands, is among the pines of the mountain province.

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On Other Islands.

On other islands the work among the pagan peoples has naturally not progressed as fast as in Luzon, but perfect order prevails, and education is beginning. The interior of the great island of Mindoro is peopled by a pagan tribe known as the Mangyans, whose very number is still a matter of guesswork. It is estimated around 15,000. These people live in isolated huts, moving from place to place whenever a member of the family dies. Their strain of Negrito blood makes them backward, but schools and permanent villages have been established.

Such tribes as these may be taken as typical of the twenty-five or thirty pagan peoples found in the Philippines.

The third race of non-Christians are the Moros of Mindanao and Sulu. The Moros represent a comparatively recent Malay invasion, as well as the highest stage of civilization the Malay race has ever reached. They are devout Mohammedans, men of immense personal courage, fierce fighters, pirates who in the past terrorized the whole archipelago. Their number is estimated all the way from 275,000 to 350,000.

Such are the peoples classed under the general head of the non-Christian tribes. In spite of the fact that today there is no disorder in any part of the islands and progress toward civilization is most encouraging, it is obvious that for many years the equilibrium will be a delicate one and the situation will continually be fraught with possibilities.

It pays to read the want columns of The Star. Hundreds of situations are filled through them.